THURSDAY, APRIL 29, 1880.

Amusements To-Day. Academy of Davign-Annual Exhibition. Bonth's Theater Tweith Night. Bijon Opera Rom s.- age Ayo Capit Line Park, Res in ya-Bernan. Mallas Chickering Half-Dawing Kom Esteria ament. Daly's New Theatre-Royal Shidy. Fifth Avenue Theaten-A Confirman from Novade Maverly's Theatre-Widow Bedott Roster & Bial's Garden-Concert. Medison - quare Theater-Hazel Eirks. Riblo's Garden-Westedon Mustrels. New York Aquertum-Tim Thumb. Maiines Park Theatre-Joshus Whiteumb. han Francisco Minstrels-Boarding School. Standard Theatre-Bobbles. Theatre C. mique-Mullipu Guard Surprise. Long Pautoe's Theatre-Yaristy. Luion Square Theatre-My Partner. Waltack's Theatre-A Calld of the State Windoor Theatre-Ive Thousand Miles Ave.

The Verdict of the Sure Republican States.

Nine Northern States which voted for HAYES in 1876 have elected delegates to the Chicago Convention. They may perhaps all be now regarded as Republican States; and they are the only States of that class which have yet chosen delegates to Chicago, viz. Maine, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Pennsylvania, Iowa, Kansas, Oregon, and Ohio. All the delegations are full excepting in Massachusetts, where a portion remains to be chosen. The whole number of delegates elected in these nine Republican States is 182.

Now, how many of these States have chosen delegates who are in favor of the nomination of Gen. Grant, and what is the total of his score among those delegates? The answer is as trustworthy as it is significant. Pennsylvania is the only one of the nine sure Republican States that has ahosen any GRANT delegates whatever; and the most impartial and best informed inquirers classify the Pennsylvania delegation as thirty for GRANT and twenty-eight for BLAINE.

This, then, is the voice of the Republican States so far as they have yet spoken. In a total of 182 delegates, GRANT has got thirty. The remaining 152 are against him. Was there ever a party so infatuated as to nominate a candidate for the Presidency in the face of such an expression of opinion from nine States of rather more than average size, every one of which it must carry at the election if it hopes to succeed?

The News from Afghanistan.

After the desperate fighting around Cabul, which imperilled, for a time, their hold upon the capita!, the British troops in Afghanistan were condemned to long inaction by the fact that the roads are impassable for artillery during the winter season. Meanwhile MAHMOUD JAN and the partisans of the deposed Ameer were known to be massing a strong force at Ghuzni, with the determination to risk another battle. The battle has taken place, and it would seem, from the detailed accounts of the engagement, that Gen. STEWART has won a decisive victory, which will virtually put an end to Afghan resistance for at least this campaign.

The results of the movement from Candahar have justified the confidence expressed by the Conservative Cabinet, and have signally refuted the wild assertions of the British Liberal press. For months we have been told that the English soldiers were cooped up in their Afghan cantonments like rats in a hole, that there was no communication between Gen. ROBERTS in the north and Gen. STEWART in the south, and that the latter's position at Candahar was untenable. His supply of provisions, it was said, was well nigh exhausted, the communications with Quettah, in his rear, had been cut, while before him lay the historic fortress of Ghuzni, reputed an almost impregnable stronghold. In the recent electoral campaign much eloquence was lavished on the pitiable fate of San Francisco, and perhaps to decrease the the officers and soldiers, condemned by a foolish Government to waste their lives in a fruitless undertaking. It now appears that at the very moment when these dark prophecies were uttered, the plan sketched last autumn by the BEACONSFIELD Ministry was being carried out in every particular, and an English commander was preparing to shatter the last obstacle to a complete control of eastern Afghanistan.

It seems that with the first opening of spring, in the early days of April, Gen. STEW-ART organized a column, and set forth from Candahar on the road to Ghuzni. He could not have had with him more than 3,000 men of all arms, for he must have left a garrison behind him, and he had only about 4,000 in Candahar at the beginning of the cold season, since which time no considerable reenforcements could be forwarded, owing to the difficulty of furnishing supplies to an expedition traversing the Bolan pass in midwinter. The Afghan tactics on this occa-Blon were identical with those employed in the assault on Gen. Massey at the close of the last campaign. The British troops were allowed to penetrate a defile, whose environing hills were occupied by the mass of the native soldiers, a corps of 3,000 picked warriors being detached to charge the British flank. These men, according to the telegram, were Ghazi, but there is no such tribe in Afghanistan, and we should evidently read Ghilzals, who, next to the Duranis of the west, are the strongest clan in the whole country, and who are passionately attached to YAKUB Khan, the Ameer having married the daughter of one of their most influential chiefs. Be that as it may, we can see from the telegraphed report of the battle that these picked soldiers fought desperately, and were, at one time on the very verge of victory. Indeed, the account of the engagement reads like a rude reproduction of Fontenoy. Just as on that famous field, the attacking column clove their enemy's centre, and, regardless of the cross fire which must have made their path a lane of death, drove forward until they nearly reached the British General-in-Chief. And just as at Fontenoy it was not the troops of France but a regiment of Irish exites which at the last moment stemmed the British rush, so here it was two squadrons of Punjab cavalry which blocked the Alghan onset and saved the day. How many of these gallant Sikhs, whose services to Eugland in the Indian mutiny are well remembered, perished in the action, we are not told; but the British loss in killed and wounded is set down at some 150, while the Aighans left behind them more than 1,000 dead, and are supposed to have carried away as many wounded.

That the Indian press should look upon this hard fought battle as conclusive, seems reasonable enough when we observe the immediate results of the engagement. The Alghan force, which had been computed at more than 15,000, is said to have been totally disorganized by the defeat, and Ghuzni was forthwith surrendered. MAHMOUD JAN, the mainspring of the Aighan outbreak, is a fugittive, while his brother and other partisans of the Ameer have come into the

Sirdars, friendly to the British, succeed in laying hands on YAKUB's son, they will secure a precious hostage for the submission of the Ghilzais. This young Prince, Moosa Khan, is the son of the marriage above mentioned, between the Ameer and a Ghilzai princesa.

In a few days, doubtless, Gon. STEWART, after leaving a garrison at Ghuzni, will effect a junction with Gen. Roberts, and throughout the coming summer communications between Cabul and Candahar may be from Peshawur to Jellalabad through the Khyber pass, and that through the southern Bolan defile from Quettah to Candahar, can be rapidly pressed forward, and thus another winter will find the conditions of war in Afghanistan radically changed. This, at all events, was the programme of the late Ministry, a programme which the success of Gen. STEWART'S movement has shown to have been shrewdly planned and entirely feasible. Whether the signal triumph of the British arms in eastern Afghanistan will be followed by an aggressive movement against Herat, depends of course on the extent to which the new Liberal Ministry is disposed to evince a concillatory policy toward Russia in dealing with the Afghan problem.

The Santillan Claim.

If the SANTILLAN land claim were now for the first time making its appearance in publie, it might be treated with patience, if not sympathy. In reality, it concerns a question adjudicated twenty years ago; and the only reason why it comes into Congress today is because it failed at that time to maintain a status in the Supreme Court.

The SANTILLAN claim is one of many that grew out of the acquisition of California after the Mexican war. Existing land titles remained good under the territorial transfer; and, as the discovery of gold and the founding of towns began to make them valuable, speculation in them became rife, and not infrequently forged Mexican titles and fraudulent "old Spanish grants" were thrown on the market to render the supply equal to the demand. As a consequence, actual occupants of land were frequently confronted by claimants under prior titles, whether genuine or fraudulent; and the most famous of these disturbing titles was the one alleged to have been given by Mexico, in 1846, under a grant of the lands adjoining the mission of San Francisco, to a priest of that mission named Santillan.

When this alleged grant was first publicly produced, the land conveyed by it was already valuable; it continued to increase in value, as it covers a large part of the city of San Francisco. The priest Santillan was himself dead when the persons claiming under him began litigation, and their suit was resisted strongly by hundreds of people already holding lots from the city authorities on the land in question.

While matters stood thus, a party of real estate speculators in Philadelphia, known as "The San Francisco Land Company," bought up the claim, purchasing it in 1853 from George W. WRIGHT of San Francisco; and they assert that \$1,300,000 was actually paid for it by them, notwithstanding that the question of the validity of the grant was already in litigation.

It never has been questioned that the SANTILLAN title was plausible, and no doubt some of those still interested in it firmly believe in its good faith; but in 1869 the Supreme Court of the United States pronounced against it.

The shock received by the Philadelphia investors in this speculation was very great, and for a time little more was heard of them. In the last Congress, however a bill was brought before the House Committee on Private Land Claims to procure the reopening of the claim. The San Francisco press at once objected to this bill as opposed to public policy, denouncing it as "a scheme to revive a claim tainted with forgery and perjury," and already pronounced void by a very high court, while tending to render uneasy thousands of property holders in value of their property.

This year the claim has been revived, and argent appeals have been made to the committee on the ground of the financial ruin brought upon innocent purchasers of the SANTILLAN title. Its advocates also claimed that their bill was drawn so as to protect San Francisco property holders. It seems now to have been arranged between the opponents and the advocates of the Santillan claim that a scheme of relief which will not undertake to reopen the validity of the titles of the San Francisco property owners will be allowed to stand its chances in Congress, and with that view the committee has

agreed to favorably report a relief bill. If the SANTILLAN people have a good title, that is leverage enough to secure their rights; but if they have only a sham title. as the courts long ago decided, what ground s there for relief by Congress? Is that body bound to indemnify all speculators who are bitten? These Philadelphians bought in 1853 a claim from people not in possession. in the hope and with the purpose of ousting hundreds of settlers who had purchased lands from the city authorities between 1846 and 1852, at a time when no SANTILLAN claim had ever been heard of, and after SANTILLAN and those claiming under him, even if he ever did have any equitable claim, had allowed his land to be treated like public property, both by the city and the citizens who purchased it. Can people who bought a lawsuit on speculation under such circumstances claim special consideration from Congress merely because their investment turned out a bad one?

Cæsar.

The manner in which the third-term managers have coolly ignored, not only the nepotism and present-taking of GRANT, but his illegal seizure of \$100,000 of public money, is, to say the least, significant. Do they suppose these facts require no explanation or defence? Do they imagine the people are indifferent to them? The people gave their verdict upon the corruptions and the indecencies of Grantism in 1874, and again in 1876; and if they have a third opportunity in 1880, we feel confident the condemnation will be still more sweeping.

Many of Gen. GRANT's flagrant ofences, while they were extremely shocking to the moral sense of the nation, were passed by without due criticism, on account of his great services in the field. This was especially the case with regard to the salary grab. Members of Congress had a legal if not a moral right to increase their own pay; but against GRANT's participation in the plunder there was a constitutional prohibition, and he could neither sign the bill nor take the money without a shameless disregard of his oath of office. But he did both, as complacently as he would have parcelled out patronage to his own family,

or appointed his present-makers to office. This, it would seem, is the kind of strength which Messrs. Cameron and CONKLING desire to see permanently introduced in the Government. "There was," says Judge Black, "a transaction of CESAR's with the Roman Treasury not dis- after boats are going up, and with the channel British camp and made their peace. If the similar to this; and Casan was a strong | winding in the strong tidal stream, and with | in a lucid and accurate manner.

man. But GRANT, more than CESAR, the large number of contestants which the big which by his admirers is supposed to be strength.'

A Sound Decision.

The decision of Commissioner ALLEN in the complaint made against EDWARD F. WILLIAMS of Greenpoint, who was accused of mailing an indecent letter, is perfectly Just. The Commissioner holds that as the letter was scaled and enclosed in deemed assured. Meanwhile the railroad an ordinary envelope, and was not seen by any one except the author until it was received and opened by the person to whom it was addressed, it does not come under the act of Congress excluding from the mails letters upon whose envelopes improper language is written. Accordingly he dismisses the complaint without going into the merits of the evidence that has been offered respecting the authorship of the letter.

This, we say, is a sound and just decision. It is high time that every form of Government espionage and every kind of peeping into the inner contents of documents sent by the mails were entirely abelished. If Government agents can be allowed to inquire into what is inside of scaled papers that are committed to the Post Office, and to reject them for any one reason, they can do so for any other reason; and presently they will be determining that the political sentiments or the social views of such documents are such that they must be excluded and their writers punished; and when it comes to this, what remains of individual freedom

will not be worth much. This thing should be stopped. Liberty may have its inconveniences and its evils; but the methods now employed to check them are infinitely worse than they, and more intolerable.

Dogs-A Breed that Should Become Extinct.

The occurrence of several cases of hydrophobia recently from the bite of Spitz dogs suggests the excessive tendency of that race of earlines to this most dreadful form of disease. We believe THE SUN was the first. to call attention to the fact that Spitz dogs are more apt to run mad than other breeds. The matter was soon taken up by other evidence was lurnished to sustain the view which we expressed. Very few Spitz dogs, comparatively, have been raised since. Still there are some-and any are too many -remaining. The whole race should be exterminated. There is great risk in keeping them, and all together they are not worth one human life.

Instances are cited of intelligence and fidelity manifested by Spitz dogs. There is same cannot be said; but the Spitzes are far inferior in all good qualities to many other breeds.

There is a belief very generally cherished that foxhounds are not subject to hydrophobia. This is a mistake. They are probably less subject to it than some other breeds-far less so than the Spitz; but a few well authenticated instances of fox- stockholder in THE SUN. He would fill with hounds running mad have been brought to credit any office to which he might be elevated. our attention by a Southern gentleman who. for many years, reared a large number to hunt with himself. But of all breeds we have ever known any

thing about the Spitzes are most inclined to hydrophobia. And they are naturally snappish and apt to bite.

They should never make their appearance again at a dog show-nor, for that matter, anywhere else in this latitude.

Making an End of Ministers.

The ordinance of the city of Louisville which makes a misdemeanor any work done on Sunday for which pay is taken, if strictly enforced, would close all the churches. Clergymen receive salaries mainly as compensation for the services they perform on Sunday.

The Quakers are an exception to this rule. They do not believe in taking pay for preaching. But there are probably few if any Friends or Quakers in Louisville.

It is a paradoxical proposition to close the churches in order to promote morality! Indeed, it is only a striking illustration of legislation run mad, of which the illustrations are growing very numerous.

In the Senate vesterday Mr. Davis of West Virginia presented a report of the investigation made by a select committee into the Treasury accounts. It will be remembered that Senator Davis charged nearly four years ago that hundreds of millions of dollars had been added to the statement of the public debt for the ostensible reason of making the Treasury books balance. In his report, in which Messrs. WHYTE and BECK concur, he says that all of his charges have been sustained by the investigation, which, if it does not reveal anything worse, shows that accounts have been kept with most reckless carelessness.

When the attention of Senator Davis of West Virginia was directed to certain mysterious and, as he thought, suspicious peculiarities of Treasury bookkeeping, he did only his duty as a good citizen and a sworn public servant in seeking to direct to them the attention of Congress and the country, too. Some of the discrepancies and the alterations which he has dragged to light may be suspentible of evolung tion, as Mr. Bourwall, and other like Republican experts insist they are. But when such men as Dawes and Ingaths sneer at Mr. Davis as having made a prodictious clatter for partisan purposes over the proper correction of inent clerical errors, it is not Mr. Davis who is injured in public estimation.

Senator ANTHONY of Rhode Island frowns upon drunkenness in naval officers while on duty-very properly. Any officer convicted of that offence, he told the Senate on Tuesday. should be dismissed, with no hope of restoration to the service. We are inclined to think the Senator is right, though tradition reports that some of the bravest old sea dogs of the dave when we really had a navy were only less fond of grog than of fighting. Both of the Senators from this State argued in favor of text for Mr. Anthony's homily another chance, Mr. Congarno announcing himself a believer in the doctrine that drunkenness is a disease and Mr. KERNAN citing the repentance and restoration of St. Peter. Their advocacy prevailed, and Mr. ANTHONY was outvoted.

The Philadelphia walking match of this week is held in the Industrial Art Building, just as the Boston Music Hall has long been consecrated to walking matches and Grmeo-Roman wrestling. Public pedestrianism has, in effect, become an art requiring much in-

As the Seckonk has been fixed as the scene f the great professional sculling match of June 17, care should be taken to so my out the course that there will be no fouling. It is tolerably certain that the start will be from a point just above the Brown University heat house. The race must be with a turn, in any event, as there is not clear distance enough for a straight-away ourse from Providence up into Pawtucket. In a five-mile race the course will lead by one point where the stream is only about 200 yards wide; and as the turn is just above this point, what with the leading boats coming home while the

showed that peculiar contempt of law purses will call out the chances of a foul at the narrows are too promising. A four-mile course would avoid this point, the turn then being below it. The amateurs have a taree-mile course, which is, of course, all right. As this event is

likely to buthe chief open contest of the year for professional acuiters, care should be taken not to make a botch of it.

JOHN SHERMAN has met and routed his nomics in Obio. The Columbus Convention yester my instructed the delegates at large and requested the district delegates to labor and vote for SHERMAN's nomination at Chicago. The test vote on the delegates at large showed that BLAINE had only one-third of the Convention-209 out of 627. As John Sherman has said all along he would be a candidate if he carried the Convention of his own State, he may now be regarded as in the field to stay.

The Pennsylvania Democratic Convention spent the day in waiting for a report from the mmittee charged with the duty of making up the roll. Speaker RANDALL and Senator WAL-LACE had a long conference, and the gratifying announcement was made from the platform that all differences within the party had been adjusted.

Varied and peculiar are the experiences of the Brooklyn preachers. Now one of them is being seed by an ex-landlady for an unpaid ponrd bill.

Now it is rumored that the de facto Cabiact is about to lose its only ex-Confederate and Democratic member. A United States District wants it, and HAYES is disposed to give it to him. If he does, as he is not so fond of ex-Confederates and Democrats as he was three publican politician is about to be tempted to throw away his future by taking office at the | of their finery would produce a political revohands of a Fraudulent President.

That was a rosy picture which Mr. Jonas painted in the Senate, Monday, of the actual state of things, social and industrial, in Louisiana. Whites and blacks, he said, were basking nicably together in the sunlight of prosperity. The former he described as patterns of gensity, kindheartedness, intelligence, devotion to liberty, energy, virtue, and hospitality; while he assured Northern Senators that the negroes were marching shoulder to shoulder with their white neighbors to gather a harvest of wealth and other desirable things. This is more to the papers ail over the country, and abundant | purpose than discussing politics with shotguns.

If Mr. WILLIAM MCKEE of Keokuk in the State of Iowa had not got drunk, he would not have strayed into the wrong house, and been mistaken for a burglar, and had his skull fracred with a billet of stovewood. Similarly, if Mr. PETER McDERMOTT of Brooklyn in the State New York had kept sober, he would not have n wandering about the suburbs in the small hours, and the honest farmer of whom he asked a ride would not have mistaken him for a footprobably no breed of dogs of which the pad, and knocked him senseless with the butt

The first number of a Republican campaign journal, edited by J. S. Goldsmith, has ust been issued in this city. It is entitled The Machine, and it bears the name of John Shen-MAN of Ohio for President, and LEVI P. MORTON of New York for Vice-President, Mr. Monroy is a very successful man. He was an original But why should be be nominated for Vice-Presi dent on a ticket with a man who is covered all ver with the stains and bruises of the great Fraud of 1876?

Overdoing It.

WASHINGTON, April 28 .- In their efforts to pro ure the Chicago nomination, John Sherman and his areau of political correspondence at Washington have rather everatine the work. The open and active inter-ference with the choice of delegates in the South and elsewhere, by regular officeholders under the Treasury. or by special agents appointed and paid for that partisan service only, has caused a reaction prejudicial to his pretensions.

Descriptions in regard to the operations of the Treasury.

easily detected by those familiar with the finances, but intended to impose on the public at large, have been exposed. Ten millions of the Geneva award are in the Treasury, subject to be drawn out any day by an act of distribution. John Sherman has audactously claimed this large sum as so much extinguished from the public debt, when not a dime of it could be lawfully appropri-

From the Alberty Atty The sentence of Kemble and his confederate ribers to one year at hard labor, in solitary confinement, and the imposition of heavy fines on them, is the abover f justice to a series of transactions which have been worthy of the Republican party in Pennsylvania, and a discrace to the State. The acuteture seems light, but it is all that the statute provides, and it weights heavily upon the gampered ruthans who have lived on stelen money a shain stations for years. The judiciary of Pennsylvania. have done their part of the duty which decency and the

Kemble and his confederates boast that they can force Gov Hoyt and his Council of Pardon to release them, cause they know more than enough to show that the overnor and his Council curit to be where they (the isomers) now are. It remains to be seen whether this colent threat will be as effective to secure a surdon as like threats from the Beturning Board thieves were to scenre offices out or Haves.

Kemble is the creature who sought to use the judiciary

of Pennsylvania as a club to beat down Charles A. Dan. the editor of Tax Sen, because that paper turned the lightness a career of crime that has finally come to the doors of the juit, which swing neward at the approach of these malefactors.

The meyenguts of Kemble, since his conviction, have been those of a distinguished polar of society and poli-tics, instead of a fluitive from pistics. He ran away from his bail; he showed himself at public resurts at New York, he somewheat at the winter sanitarium. Attantic City, and he sannement that in his own good time he would go to harrisburg to combin the Judge to begins pardon. The Judge has not exactly done so

The offence of Kemble was bribing logislators in the matter of the bills providing for the assessment of riot damages, growing out of the PSTT labor war. As a matter of fact this was but one instance of an industry of brilling and being bribed which he pursued. He recipied in place in the Republican National Committee to let o Ion Cameron, who surceeded Zach Chandler, the other Presidency that, in the Chairmandine Kembe was, or course, an earnest Grant man. All his and are, His conviction and sentence are the most saintary facts for hance since the conviction of Tweed. Grant will be sin cerely serry that Kemble has been found out.

From the New York Paris. As might be expected, the friends of Kemble, Recoverses, and the other Pennsylvania corruption of making fresh offerts to avert their contence. Count the maximized of their strain, the wind age of a year's un-prisonment and a fine of \$1.330 is not for severy. These men were quifts or a crime which wass the foundation of civilized society. Bribery of legislaters as so monstrons an effected that no honest and dispussionate man can pity giving the officer whose case furnished the an old man, and now reported to be means with grief and shame, was a member of the Lorestature, but his punishing mand that of the colleague, Petrof, is no more sexure than that mered out to the industrial. The Court of Parties will be implored to save all these converts from the pentientary, and it is preposed to it at the constitu-tionality of the sentence in used upon thom. But, what exer comes of these efforts, the criminals are branded for

The first and second parts of Shakespeare's blay of "King Henry the Fourth" are published by the M ears Harper with Mr Holle's notes and with illustra-tions like those found in other volumes of the same actics. We have often had occasion to commend this edition of Shakespeare.

A new manual upon the science of whist is published by the Harpers in a little volume entitled "Laws and Begulations of Short Whiet," by A. Trump, Jr. Some twenty-five pages of the work are devoted to stringent estimations upon some of the trabe-streegy-red authora-tics in whist playing. The rules as laid down by Mr. Trump, Jr., are those adopted by the Washington Cub-Paris, and are mostly compled from De Chapetes. They are here expressed with equal conciseness and clearness One of the last publications in the Standard Series of Mesers, Funk 4 for is Ruskin a "Letters to Working and

The American Naturalist, published monthly by McCalla & Stavely in Paniadelphia, is a valuable accentific magazine, treating a great variety of subjects

UTOPIAN TAXATION.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: A bill is now before our Legislature, and pressed with great pertinacity, to compel all adults, male and female, to annually make a sworn list of all their property and credit for the purpose of taxation. This is an annoying, expensive, inquisitorial, edious, and wholly impracticable peasure, and a nonsensical scheme of super-

posed and multiplied taxation. Real estate and personal property are indissolubly connected in reference to tax-ation, and incapable of being divorced. It is impossible to tax all real estate without taxing all personal property once. The taxation of land in effect is a taxation of its use and its products. The taxes upon agricultural lands form a part of the cost of agricultural products, and they will appear and be sold in the price of agricultural commodities. A real estate tax on a corner grocery or on a manufactory will appear in the price of articles manufactured or sold; and every landlord will add the real estate tax to the tenants' rent. Real estate owners, therefore, advance, but do not pay or ultimately sustain, the burden of land taxes, any more than persons who own no land,

It is the consumer, whether he is a landholder or whether he is landless, who finally pays the real estate taxes or other taxes. The great taxpayers in this city are the inmates of tenement ouses, who are great consumers because they are numerous. All forms of their consumption and expense are reached in a single real estate tax. There is often a misconception about who are taxpayers, but our largest and most intelligent real estate owners freely acknowledge that they are only tax collectors or tax advau-Judgeship in Tennessee has fallen vacant; Key | cers, and they therefore advocate an exclusive real estate tax for State and municipal purposes. Any attempt to tax all personal property to the owners is utopian. It is the vision of a tain what women are of full age and the value

> There are in this city about five hundred thousand persons of full age, who, under this proposed law, must repair annually to the City Hall and make a sworn report in detail. and be subject to an inquisition as to age and

> as to items of property and credits. This odious form of unnecessary, inquisitorial, infinitesimal, and double or multiplied taxation is more than human nature can or will endure. It does diminish but adds to the value of real estate. to make it the sole, uniform, and economical tax collector, and to leave the tax subject to diffusion and distribution upon all forms of consumption and expense by the natural laws f competition.

But if real estate owners unwisely bethe pens ran dry, but in reality one sentence lieve that they alone pay or ultimately bear the burden of a land tax, and that they can add any value to real estate by making the owners of personal property jointly or in whole or in part the tax collectors or tax advancers, and press a measure to this effect until it is decided by an appeal to the ballot box, they must inevitably suffer a most signal defeat.

It is evident that land is the most economical, uniform, and effective instrument of getting taxes advanced and distributed on ultimate consumption; and not five per cent, of the populaion of this city own any real estate, and therefore a contest against infinitesimal, double, and inquisitorial taxation cannot be considered doubtful. The five "spot" cannot take the ninety-five "spot."

AN ISLAND PRISON.

Russia's New Penal Colony in the Far Eastern Sens-Saghalien's Future. St. Petersburg, April 5 .- One of the first

oblems forced upon the attention of Gen. Melikoff was the providing of fresh facilities or confining the Czar's disaffected subjects. For several years past the prisons of European Russia have been crowded to overflowing, and the same thing is true of Siberia. It appears that the practical mind of our new ruler has already hit upon a satisfactory solution of this problem. He is going to make the prisoners use themselves and feed themselves. They are to till the soil, to raise cattle, and to become a profit to the State instead of a burden; and they are to do all this on the Island of Saghalien.

For ten years the Government had been unsuccessfully trying to colonize this island. The great difficulty has been to get the prisoners there and to supply them with food and cloth ing after they got there. Last summer the experiment was tried for the first time of transporting them by sea in conversings, and the notherities were so well pleased with the result

authorities were so well pleased with the result that the work of colonization is lienceforth to be steadily pushed.

At present there are on this island a little more than two thousand prisoners, all condemned to hard labor for long terms. Six hundred of those are supposed in the coal mines at the post of bun, and the rest are making rows and otherwise preparing for the arrival of the newcomers. Besides the post of bun, there are three more to be established—one in the Valley of the Alexandrovsk, one in that of the Tymovsk, and the Korsakoff post. This will give three posts in the central part of the island, and one at its southern end. The large farms are to be established at the posts of Alexandrovsk and Tymovsk. It is said that the tovernment has arealy appropriated the money necessary for carrying out these plans.

Sagnatien is to have an administration of its own. Besides several companies of soldiers, who will perform guard duty, there will be a surveyor, an agriculturist, and an architect to direct, and supervise the prisoners at their

who will perform guard duty, there will be a surveyor, an agriculturist, and an architect to direct and supervise the prisoners at their work. Two surgeons are already on the island. This new scheme of colonization is not popular. The Nihilists don't like it; for, once transported to that distant island, they will be practically cut off from the people among whom they desire to propagate their doctrines. The peasants, who have become accustomed to the terrors of Siberia, are awestruck at the thought of a long voyage in the dreading floating prison, over unknown seas, to a rocky island that is larther than even far-off Siberia, and that less by the side of heathen Japan. One point troubles the Government. The chances are that escapes will be more frequent than in Siberia. It is known that a large number of those transported to Sighairen last summer have already schway.

those transported to Saghairen last summer have airendy get away.

It is reported that there is a kind of kindergarten on the island, established by the wife of a surgeon, where some thirty children of convers are taught and amused. It would be interesting to follow the after lives of these poor little urchins, whose school days are passed amid such strange and gloomy surroundings.

Mr. Hayes Contemplating a Veto.

WASHINGTON, April 27,-R. B. Hayes is serionly contemplating a victor of the Immediate Deficiency Appropriation bill, containing the Harlicht amendment dividing the Appointments of special deputs marshals quality between the two parties. As around in such cases, the Hayes has given certain Hennideans to uncerstand has he will you the half of the many to be the half of the will you to be half of the half of the will you at he will yell the hill, sin he may intermed at all me will approve it. The bases of the velo, if or less will be the same as in the masses of each at the amendment intermed with the securior of the amendment in the races with the securior of the amendment intermed with the securior of the amendment in the case with the securior of the amendment in the compelled to go without their pay for an

Spelling Reform Called For.

Washington, April 27.-In the House, Mr. Milon Rep. R. L. introduced a joint resolution consti-uting a commission to report on the amendment of the of tirest British to unless in consti-

Trade Dollars.

To the Editor of The Sun-Sir. Can you form me whether an employer can pay his employees' races with trade dollars? From stuffalo and all through the Western States a trade deligras worth 75 cents, and Western States a trade Schurzswerth recents and regarded and relevant companies return and large this and relevant companies return to the term is are tree alread to create an and present as avaisant to a legal tender? Could a wan see hivem ever for the behauce of his wages, if paid in trade large.

A Petrifying Question.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sor: Will one of your many modificent readers please, inform me any sold or substance that will petrify or make grease tailow very hard? It is to be used into a certain per a investion, and russ other is would do set the pate It Too not care whether it will must or not but I went ther it wouldn't. A World as SECORD FOLIOR.

Elementary Truth.

If there is a third-term candidate, there will

ublican party has nothing better to offer the untry than a third term of Grant, it is high time the party was resolved into its original elements.

If the Presidency is a periphistic of the ex-President, and the country is a pocket-piece of Conkling, the great war didn't help our political attuation much.

PUBLIC SPEAKERS AND REPORTERS.

The campaign for President is at hand, and two armies of speakers will soon be in the field. From many of the leaders on both sides have often come complaints that the newspapers have not dealt fairly with them in the re-

ports of their speeches. There are several reasons why reports cannot always please, the most prominent of which are the haste, the excitement, and often the downright carelessness of the speakers thomselves, As a rule, there is no just ground of complaint against reporters, for, while a few speeches may sometimes be seriously damaged, most of

them are greatly improved. It should be remembered that extemporaneous speaking, except by trained and skilful orators, generally reads badly. The reproduction on paper of an off-hand speech is sure to reveal errors and imperfections at which the speaker himself is sometimes astonished, and

for which the reporter is often blamed. By the public speaker there are two great dangers to be guarded against-a rapid delivery and the habit of using long and involved sentences. The first may put his speech beyond the reach of all average reporters, and the second may lead him into a maze of parentheses, from which no reporter can quickly release him without, perhaps, handling him roughly. To be sure, a little pruning and grafting can often turn involved and unfinished sentences into beautifully rounded periods; but this requires time, and editors in the hurry of the hours approaching publication are often obliged to take the plain matter without stopping to polish it. The two speakers in this country who are

supposed to have suffered most in the hands of stanographers are Henry Ward Beecher and William M. Evarts. In Beecher's case, this is due in great measure to the matter itself. Strie any one of Beecher's speeches or sermons of years ago, the chances are that some ambitious dreamer. Any attempt of assessors to ascer- the skill of tongue that belongs to him, and a commonplace thing remains. But it is probably true that some of his efforts have been damaged through the rapidity of his utterance. With Mr. Evarts the case is different. He speaks carefully, slowly, but he is by no means ucid. He never goes straight to any point, preferring to revolve around it, now coming close to it, and then going away so far with so many turns and twists that when he finally does get back he leaves the reporters, and indeed the readers, too, in a perfect wilderness of words, the outlet to which can only be discoverod by the most skilful punctuation. At sea among the waves and dashes of his long sentences, on one memorable and melancholy oceasion, the reporting erew of an esteemed contemporary was swamped and lost. From the fragments of the wreck a literary curiosity was produced next morning-a great puzzle. which the periods seemed to be placed where

> their" ravenous little pens," can get the language of a speaker pretty much as a hen pecks corn. This is a popular error. No man can report what he can't understand; where the mind fails to follow the ideas, the fingers refuse to catch the words. To prove this, one has only to look at a young reporter attempting to take one of Mr. Evarts's speeches. Like the athlete that comes to grief through too much reliance in the size of his muscle, the tyro is fooled by too much faith in the speed of his writing. With a self-sufficient air he flings down his note book and gives his elbow the phonographic swing. Slowly at first, and with a graceful undulating motion, his pencil follows Evarts, but it appears to get exhausted before the end of the first page is reached. It staggers, goes into spasms, and finally stops altogether. Up goes that reporter's head, and with an expression of blank amazement he tries to assist his eyes with his mouth in the effort to see through the thin man who can't help him and can't help himself. Whoever has witnessed a boatman. with a broken painter in his hand, watching the vessel that was towing him gliding off and fading away in a fog, can best realize the position of that reporter.

from beginning to end, and the biggest one on

It is generally supposed that reporters, with

record-several columns in bulk.

The art of public speaking in this country seems to be on the decline, either because there is no longer any demand for oratory since the newspaper article has so largely taken the place of the speech, or because the extreme caution of our public men has introduced the practice of delivering written addresses. The extemporaneous speech, however, is really the one worth listening to. It has a ring of freedom and straightforward purpose about it that can never be found in the cold stiffness of the imperfections, he is, on the other hand, probably just as often agreeably surprised at the clearness of his utterances in the light of what has been so well termed the fire of oratory. Some of the best speeches that we have on record were made by men who, before they rose to speak, had but faint outlines of what they were about to say. With a written address stiffly read there can be little or no sympathy between the speaker and his audience. He generally fails to capture their attention, and produces drowsiness where he expected cheers. For the speaker who wants to find out what there is in him in the line of oratory, it is far better to abandon the cautious habit of writing his speeches, and, taking courage from the fact that extreme precision of language is expected from him only when he writes, fearlessly "think aloud" upon his legs like a man.

Comets' Tolle Again. TOTHE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: I read Mr. Cather's remarks about comets tails, and think he is mistaken in his cases. He seems to labor under the im-pression that the surrounding ether is like our atmospriers, a resisting instead of a non-resisting medium; and that is where his literary laids brough. The effect offer, into no resistance to the passage of a high the most strengthed barts of a counct, as well as the incluse, would move were applied vessely, said it would consequently re-ince were applied vessely, and it would consequently re-ince and complete the country it came within the influence of another hory. The ontil it came within the influence of another hory. The ontil the demonstrated by tetting a housted receiver.

William and and a beatier fail from the throat an ex-Williamshungh, April 27,

A Fact of Minor Importance.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: On exam ning the walls of Manison Square Garden, facing Mudi e bricks which were added to the original wall where he ricture gallery was null were not even painted

The Wall of Wheeler. Thus muttered sweet William A. Wheeler, Far up in the woods of Maione: "Why can't I put forward a tevier,

And grate at Chicago a bon For the man of Malone ?" The breeze in the wide forest mighing. And swelling the sigh with a mean, To Wheeler's mild query replying, Then answered the man of Malone

With the echo, " Abme !" ""Twere better to be a Feeleean," He said, "or an exile abroad, A slave, or a telling picterian, Talearry a lice or a bod,

Thun to serve a Fraud." Then Echo, who dwells by the fountain That lovingly sprinkles the soil Down there at the fact of the mountain. Sent praintively flying abroa This attence, "A Fraud!"

" Oh, why did I ever accept it-I know that I shouldn't have kept it; And small is the pittance in gold For which I was sold."

A turkey cock wandering near film. A creature so brilliant and hold, Then shook out its wattles to cheer him, But gebbied, axit with a cold

The hearse answer, "Sold!" " The future I never had painted So dark as the present I know; By touching the Fraud I am tainted, And men can but reap what they sow;

But where shall I so!"

A squirrel, so full of his chatter, A rotten not dropping below. Looked down to see what was the matter, And barked at him, "Go!"

SUNBEAMS.

-An old messmate of Capt. Stirling of the missing British naval training ship Atalanta says that the Captain, when a midshipman, was the fortunate captar of the famous Chinese Commissioner, Yeh, at the

storming of Canton in 1959. He notled the old of back by his platnit as he was drying through a window, and were his watch as a trophy ever after. -An insidious worm called the fluke is causing losses among the sheep in Great Britain actually exceeding, in the aggregate, the cost of any of the wars

which have figured to the indictment agon which the Tory Ministry is said to have been found guilty. In some parts of England, chiefly in the southwestern provinces, whole flocks have perished, and not a sheep is sound. -"I am told," said Mr. Gladstone to Mr.

Sam Ward one evening at Dalmeny after a day of creat oratorical conflict, "that you have in your country a man who can play on a harp of a thousand strings." "Yes," was the reply, "but I have listened to a man today in this country who can play upon a harp of ten thousand strings." Mr. Gladstone is understood to have been pleased with the compliment. -Mr. Gladstone, since his triumph, has

got into a charming mental condition. His speeches breathe nothing save peace and good will to all men, Lord Beaconsfield included. He has even for the first time in his career, essayed the rôle of humorist. But his efforts have been very clumsy, and in most coarse con-trast to the light and graceful raillery and irony, cold and polished as a Damascus blace, of Beaconsfield. Serious business is the new Fremier's forte.

-A few days since an aquarium was exhibited as Annich, which has been manufactured by command of the German Emperor, and is intended to the first prize at the fishery exhibition at consists of a large glass sphere, supported by three Nainds. The space between the figures is filled with flowers. The stand on which the whole restals of har mered ironwork. Dolphins and sea plants wrought in copper are intertwined in the work. The work was designed by Prof. von Miller, and is pronounced to be a beautiful piece of art.

-Among the items of Mr. Beaumont's election expenses in 1829, when contesting Northumber-land, were: Innkeopers and carriages, £20,551; cockades and flags, £564, printing and stationery, £1,582; private lodgings, £2.348; bands, £953. Under "Sundries" were placed charges amounting to several thousand pounds. Those were high old times for the hotel and stable keepers. It was the great anti-Beresford crusade which made the fortune of the famous Bianconi, in Ireland. All his cars were secured by Mr. Stuart's agents for \$5,000, and this gave his business its first great impetus.

-- William P. Gillespie was on his deathbed at Columbus, Ind. The physician told him that he could not live many hours. "Are you sure I can't get well" the patient saled, "I don't want you to make a mistake about it. Is there a possibility of recovery! He was assured that his speedy demise was absolutely certain. Then be explained why he was so anxious to get exact information. He had murdered a man twelve years before, and had never been suspected of the crime. He desired to confess and be forgiven, it he really was going to die, but not otherwise. He died, and the truth of his statement has been amply sustained.

-Mr. Gladstone's eldest son has been returned for East Worcestershire, in which the large Lyttleton estates lie. The late Lord Lyttleton was Mr. Giadatone's brother-in-law, being married to the second daughter and co-heress with Mrs. Gladatone of the late sir Stephen Glyn. This eldest son of Mr. Gladatone, who was a Lord of the Treasury during his father's administration, is profoundly stupid, and could with difficulty obtain his degree at Oxford. The fourth son, Herbert, who was defeated at Middlesex, but who will be returned in his father's stead for Leeds, is especially bright, and is likely to make his mark in the House.

-The Berliner Zeitung has caused some sensation in Germany by a terrible description which it has published of the maitreatment to which a soldier, and especially a young recruit, in the German army is liable to be subjected at the caprice of his superior, and without any hope of redress. Kicks in the stomach, boxes on the car, blows with a sheathed sword or the buttend of a musket, are part of the treatment to which the soldier must submit. The number of cases of suicide in the German army, which is notoriously exceedingly large, is mentioned by the writer in support of his case libtreated by his superiors, drilled till he faints from fatigue, subjected to most cruel tortures, which compare with those of the Inquisition, the soldier, despairing of

obtaining justice or rollef, puts an end to his life. -A Russian paper, the Kievlianin, reports that in the latter part of 1879, in the province of Poltavo the cattle plague carried away from 75 to 80 per cent of all the animals affected by it. A Russian who saw no escape for his cattle resorted to the dangerous experiment of inoculating his healthy beasts with the virus taken from the diseased ones. All the cattle expermented upon were taken ill upon the tenth day after the operation, and about 18 per cent, of them perished. leaving 82 per cent, safe from the epidemic. The inocu lated animals lived with impunity even through the repeated epidemics that afterward ravaged the same re gion. The result of this experiment has proved so satis factory that inoculation for the plague is to be tried on an

extensive scale in a number of Russian a -Prof. Wickersheimer, the celebrated taxidermist attached to the Austomical Museum of Berlin, has just discovered a liquid which, injected into the veins of lead ment, not only preserves it for several weeks from decay, but keeps it perfectly fresh and in possession of its natural flavor. Having treated a slaughtered call with his new preparation, and subsequently caused it to be exposed for a fortnight to the strand weather changes, carefully prepared essay; and if the speaker is hanging in the open front of a butcher's shop, be invited often disampointed at the reflection of his own a select party of scientific relebrities to partake of the meat thus tested, providing for them, however, other viands in case the prepared yeal should fail to suit their palates. The professor's guests, however, found his piece de resistance so toothsome and delicate that they confined their attentions to it exclusively, neglecting all

the other solid items in his menn -Human ingenuity is frequently devoted to singular purposes of a not very useful description. At the Dusseldorf Exhibition, which opens next month, a member of the Rhenish and Westphanan Stenographic Society will exhibit a German postcard containing Voss's translation of the first three books of Homor's "Odvssey" and part of a very long debate which recently took place in the German Imperial Parliament. The number of words in the extract of the "Odyssey" is 11,000, while in the parliamentary debate the number is 22,000. The whole of the 33.000 words have been written in the Gabelsherr system of shorthand and with the naked eye The quantity of matter in this German shorthand many script would be equal to what is contained in about twelve columns of The Sus set in solid agate type.

-Philadelphia is astonished to find that t is to have an elevated railroad. The enterprise was kept a secret until very fately, and the first public int mation of it was the rapid demolition of houses. Con-trary to what has been done in this city, the line within the city proper is to run on property owned by the com pany, except where it crosses streets. The projector are the Pennsylvania Bairond Company, and it is to run from their present deput, in West Philadelphia, to Broad and Market streets, in the heart of the city. The job of purchasing the ground of its 250 owners was undertaked a year ago by trusty agents, and the hovers were over a hundred different persons, who resold to the company at the proper time. By this plan the property was all ac quired at reasonable prices. The structure is to be a brick and from and the Schuylkill is to be crossed by

massive tridge. -A cottonwood tree believed to be over Proyears and was recently out down in front of our of the noteds in Denver, Col. Under this tree washeld the trial of Moses Young, a German, who remultied the first murder in Denver. The jury convicted him, and he was taken to the cabin of the Sheriff. At daybreak a pose of men took. Young from the cabin and hanged him to be branch of the catumwood tree. The lyne was substanced by a large number of Iolians, who had a builded to the branches of maghening trees. In the same was found from Gordon was tried for marker under the case colors. wood, and was innied to the same branch from which Young was suspended. It is believed that there were other trials and hangings in its shade. The tree was is the early days of Benver the Jaczest of a cluster of cettile would standing where the city is now thinkly built was A section of the trunk is to be sent to this city to be manusctured into toothpicks.

-The street fight between Speaker Blager and Representative White of the Kenturay Lagrandors, bright reported to be extantly growned on contrasted over a proposed law against letteres. A probability of was hardy to be passed, and disciprings were reading the various expedients to secure delay. White accused the Speaker of making untain decisions in the interest of ottery company. Blager regimed, "The grotteman block lass hand, and will not dare to repeat it outside of that House." Whate's retort was, "I find the charge safe. into your teeth." A motion to action in was note 17:132 ried, and nobody doubted that there would be a sangularity encounter. But the after, though it occurred promote the control of the iv. was disappointing in its results. The two manual formed to the street placed at each other, and total light, but their blows were so will not not neither was burt. "It was more morning transacress with a dozen elephants." says an eye with sa.

-When Chuntelle, the founder of the present or Taing dynastic absoluted this below the period of the term. Earnetice sent which is situated in the bries a si wested Pears. It is believed that the radicement in power so long as this tree east. t since no error of decay and has a pa the before its but thorne is a still one esperations attached to it former are walls from the root, and with the death me withers away, while a fresh much to be not sometaratly the Emperor for the 100s with considerable anxiety the growth of employ. The free is named. The Emper-it this be worthy of notice that the explore Emperor is said to be extremely vigorous and finitished